

**PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INTEGRITY/FRAUD PREVENTION
SUBCOMMITTEE**

January 8, 2004

Attendance:

Rick Zynda, DHFS/BEM; Mike Poma, Milwaukee Co.; Pam Kiern, DHFS/BHLE; Richard Basiliere, Outagamie County DHHS; Gene Kucharski, Portage County; Charles Billings, DHFS/PAFS; Barry Chase, DHFS/PAFS; Richard Eddings, Dane County; Fay Simonini, DWD/PACU; Nancy Foss, DHFS/DHCF; Virginia Wiedenfeld, Richland Co., and Gloria Guitan, Milwaukee Co.

Phone In attendees:

Jim Borgerson, Douglas County, and Corinne McFarland.

The meeting was called to order by Rick Zynda.

The minutes of December 11, 2003 were discussed and approved.

Administrator's Memos Status:

**2004 IM Contracts-Program Integrity/Fraud Prevention funds
Administrators Memo**

Rick reported the memo containing the 2004 Model Fraud Plan and allocations for Fraud, MA Transportation and Burial, has not yet been issued. It is currently under review by WCHSA. The due date will be adjusted based on the actual issuance date.

Benefit Recovery Administrators Memo

Rick reported that there was additional fine-tuning of the memo's charts and that it is being sent for review at both DHFS and DWD.

Fraud Program Monitoring and Coordination

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of monitoring fraud program activities and coordinating between DWD and DHFS. DWD has lost all staff knowledgeable about the fraud program. DHFS is considering having fraud program monitoring handled by either the Area Administrative teams or as component of the FS program review process.

Models

Descriptions of the fraud programs have been received from Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, and Ohio. Rich reported that the Public Assistance Fraud questionnaire has been sent to California, Colorado, and Pennsylvania. Responses have been received from Connecticut and Washington. It was suggested that Indiana and Michigan should also be contacted to survey the complete federal Mid-west Region. Wisconsin appears to be unique in funding the fraud program solely with Program Revenue funding.

Key Issues

Rick shared a copy of a Key Issues document that will be used as part of the Subcommittee's report to IMAC at their next meeting.

Funding

Comparison of how Wisconsin funds its fraud program compared to other states. Recommends GPR funding.

Designated Staffing

Proposed structure of designated staff at both the state and local levels.

Process Flow Models

Alternative models to meet size and structure differences. Discussion occurred about the possible centralization of some functions to reduce local agency workload.

Policy

Revisions of state policies; requesting federal waivers, if possible; and add system issues. Fay reported that there is commercial software available to do over payment allocations for all programs. It may be desirable to handle as a stand alone system due to the uncertain future of the current system.

Access to Data (security)

Rick distributed an issue paper by Barry Chase on contracted service providers having access to on-line data. Many subcommittee members felt that it indicated there are no access restrictions for contractors if local agency approval is given. Other raised the need to know definition of state and federal policy.

Further Discussion

There was discussion about the need for more state and local management concern about the future consequences of an inadequate fraud/prevention program in Wisconsin's public assistance programs. In the current fiscal environment, the issue of dealing with these problems may be perceived as uncorrectable and there may not be a willingness to try to deal with them.

There needs to be a recommendation for how to market the subcommittee's proposals to gain management acceptance. It was suggested that a pilot project in southeast Wisconsin, with a focus on ChildCare and W-2 programs, might be desirable.

Next meeting will be February 12, 2004. 9:30 A.M.